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the parts are in a normal condition. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired that zoologists in our different zoological districts would give attention to the anatomical structure of the species which inhabit their own districts. Eventually, in this way, there may be built up a correct knowledge of the habits and anatomy of this interesting family, of which we have a somewhat comparatively correct diagnosis of the exo-skeleton.

Mr. Lea also mentioned that, in connexion with this subject, he had paid much attention to the power of vision in the family *Unionidæ*, since his communication on the subject, in February, 1857. He found the following species always to close the anal opening, and to withdraw the papillæ of the branchial opening when the light was suddenly intercepted, viz :

Unio cylindricus, Say.
Unio rubiginosus, Lea.
Unio subrotundus, Lea.
Unio pyramidatus, Lea.
Unio obscurus, Lea.
Unio pustulosus, Lea.
Unio Æsopus, Green.
Anodonta imbecilis, Say.

Dr. J. A. Meigs read some remarks of Mr. Joseph Barnard Davis, reviewing the method of measurement, as a diagnostic means of distinguishing human races, adopted by Drs. Schertzer and Schwarz, in the circumnavigatory expedition of the Austrian vessel Novara.

The number of the Proceedings of the Academy for November was laid on the table.

December 13th.

Dr. RUSCHENBERGER in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

A paper was read, entitled, "Reflections upon the nature of the temporary star of the year 1572, an application of the nebular hypothesis, by Alexander Wilcocks, M.D.," and was referred to a committee.

The decease of Dr. H. C. Caldwell, late a member of the Academy, was announced : he died at Lewisburg, Va., Dec. 1st., aged 28 years.

December 20th.

Mr. LEA, President in the Chair.

Forty-five members present.

Papers were presented for publication in the Journal, entitled, "Descriptions of New Cretaceous and Eocene Shells of Mississippi and Alabama, also, with Notes on Eocene Fossil Shells, by T. A. Conrad."

"Descriptions of Exotic Unionidæ, by Isaac Lea."

And were referred to a committee.

The following were presented for publication in the Proceedings :—

"Notice of the Shells collected by Mr. J. Xantus, at Cape San Lucas, by P. P. Carpenter."

[Dec.

"Prodromus Descriptionis Animalium evertibratorum, quæ in Expeditione ad Oceanum Pacificum septentrionalem, a Republica federata missa, Cadwaladaro Ringgold et Johanne Rodgers ducibus observavit et descripsit W. Stimpson : pars vii., Crustacea Macrura."

"Catalogue of the Venomous Serpents in the Museum of the Academy, with notes on the Families, Genera and Species, by E. D. Cope."

And were referred to Committees.

Dec. 27th.

Mr. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Fifty-five members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the paper entitled

"Descriptions of Exotic Unionidæ, by Isaac Lea," was ordered to be published in the Journal.

And the following in the Proceedings :

Descriptions of Three New Species of Exotic Uniones.

BY ISAAC LEA.

UNIO WYNEGUNGAENSIS.—Testâ lævi, ellipticâ, inflatâ, inæquilaterali, posticé subbiangulatâ, anticé obliquè rotundatâ; valvulis subcrassis, anticé crassioribus; natibus prominentibus, ad apices valdè divaricatè undulatis; epidermide luteo-olivâ, micante, obsoletè radiatâ: dentibus cardinalibus subcrassis, suberectis, valdè crenulatis, in utroque valvulo duplicibus; lateralibus sublongis, crassis subrectisque: margaritâ salmonis colore paulisper tinctâ et iridescente.

Hab.—Wynegunga River, 30 miles east of Nagpoor, in the Deccan, Bengal. C. M. Wheatley.

UNIO CONSOBRINUS.—Testâ lævi, ellipticâ, subinflatâ, inæquilaterali, posticé obtusè angulatâ, anticé rotundatâ; valvulis subtenuibus, anticé paulisper crassiusculis; natibus prominulis; epidermide micante, tenebroso-fuscâ, eradiatâ; dentibus cardinalibus parvis, crenulatis, compressis, obliquis, in valvulam dextram duplicibus; lateralibus longis, lamellatis subcurvisque; margaritâ salmonis colore tinctâ et valdè iridescente.

Hab.—China. C. M. Wheatley.

UNIO NAGPOORENSIS.—Testâ lævi, subtriangulari, subinflatâ, inæquilaterali, posticé biangulatâ, anticé rotundâ; valvulis subtenuibus, anticé crassioribus; natibus prominentibus, epidermide rufo-fuscâ, striatâ, eradiatâ, dentibus cardinalibus parvis, compressis, obliquis, crenulatis, in utroque valvulo duplicibus; lateralibus longis, lamellatis curvisque; margaritâ salmonis colore paulisper tinctâ et iridescente.

Hab.—Ambajiri Tank, Nagpoor, Bengal. C. M. Wheatley.

Notice of the Shells collected by Mr. J. Xantus, at Cape St. Lucas.

BY P. P. CARPENTER.

The Mollusca of the Cape, forwarded by Mr. Xantus, are shore shells, mostly dead. They are, however, singularly free from ballast and other usual admixtures, one specimen only being foreign to the American shores. They 1859.]